

ANNUAL MISSION COOPERATIVE APPEAL

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September 25/26 – Rev. Jose Manjakunnel

The mission Archdiocese of Imphal was erected in 1980 comprising the entire state of Manipur, lies in the Northeast India on the Indo-Myanmar border. It has a population of over 3.2 million from 34 indigenous tribes of Mongolian origin. Each tribe has its own dialect, music and dance. 60% of the population is Hindus while 40% belong to number of Christian denominations. **The first baptism was administered in 1952.** Thereafter, the Church in Manipur witnessed a phenomenal growth in number as well as vocations to Priesthood and Religious life. As of 2021, the diocese has 100,000 Catholics in 45 parishes and 8 mission centers. Our diocese is also blessed with 113 diocesan and 56 religious priests and 574 Religious sisters from 34 tribes.

In view of an increasing number of priestly ordinations, we open one or two new parishes every year in remote areas of the diocese primarily to initiate evangelization work among non-Christians and foster faith among the existing Catholic communities. Our communities live in cluster of villages perched on mountains and they practice the most rudimentary form of farming called “**Jhum**” (*slashing and burning of forest for cultivation*) for their sustenance.

Being a mission diocese, we are not able to generate the much-needed funds to provide infrastructure in parishes that are opened every year. Though our tribal communities are poor, they are very hardworking and generous in providing locally available building materials like boulders, timber, stone chips and labor for construction works. Your participation in the 2021 Missionary Cooperative Plan will help our diocese to realize the dream of this newly formed catholic community in Kamjong village. Temporarily they gather for Sunday worship in a small shed which needs to be replaced with a permanent church. Therefore, we kindly request you to participate in this small project by your generous support and prayers. Please also keep our diocese and its missionaries in your valuable prayers. You are assured of our love and prayers.

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– St. Teresa of Calcutta –

